NUMB. XLVIII.

The GUARDIAN.

Wedneſday, May 6. 1713.

IT is the general Opinion, that Madam *Maintenon* has of late Years influenced all the Meaſures of the Court of *France*. The King, when he has taken the Air after Dinner, never fails of going to ſit with her till about Ten a-Clock; at which time he leaves her to go to his Supper. The Comptroller-General of the Finances likewiſe comes to her Apartments to meet the King: While they are in Diſcourſe Madam *Maintenon* ſits at her Wheel towards the other end of the Room, not ſeeming to give the leaſt Attention to what is ſaid. Nevertheleſs, the Miniſter never makes a Propoſition to the King, but his Majeſty turns towards her, and ſays, *What think you, Madam, of This?* She expreſſes her Opinion after a modeſt manner; and whatſoever ſhe ſays is done. Madam *Maintenon* never appears in Publick, except when ſhe goes with the King to take the Air; and then ſhe ſits on the ſame Seat with the King, with her Spectacles on, working a Piece of Embroidery, and does not ſeem to be ſo much as ſenſible of the great Fortunes and Honours to which ſhe has raiſed her ſelf. She is always very modeſtly Dreſt, and never appears with any Train of Servants. Every Morning ſhe goes to St. *Cyr*, to give her Orders there, it being a kind of Nurſery founded by herſelf for the Education of young Ladies of good Families, but no Fortune. She returns from thence about the time the King riſes, who never fails to pay her a Morning Viſit. She goes to Maſs always by Break of Day, to avoid the Concourſe of People. She is rarely ſeen by any, and almoſt inacceſſible to every body, excepting three or four particular Acquaintance of her own Sex. Whether it be, that ſhe would by this Conduct avoid Envy, as ſome think; or, as others would have it, that ſhe is afraid the Rank which ſhe thinks due to her, ſhould be diſputed in all Viſits and Publick Places, is doubtful. It is certain, that upon all Occaſions ſhe declines the taking of any Rank; and the Title of *Marquiſſe* (which belongs to the Lands the King purchaſed for her) is ſuppreſſed before her Name; neither will ſhe accept of the Title of a Dutcheſs, aſpiring in all probability at ſomething ſtill higher, as will appear by what follows.

From ſeveral Particulars in the Conduct of the *French* King, as well as in that of Madam *Maintenon*, it has for ſome Years been the prevailing Opinion of the Court, that they are married. And, it is ſaid, that her Ambition of being declared Queen broke out at laſt; and that ſhe was reſolved to give the King no Quiet till it was done. He for ſome time reſiſted all her Sollicitations upon that Head; but, at length, in a Fit of Tenderneſs and Good-nature, he promiſed her, that he would conſult his Confeſſor upon that Point. Madam *Maintenon* was pleaſed with this, not doubting but that Father *la Chaiſe* would be glad of this Occaſion of making his Court to her; but he was too ſubtle a Courtier not to perceive the Danger of engaging in ſo nice an Affair; and for that reaſon evaded it, by telling the King, that he did not think himſelf a Caſuiſt able enough to decide a Queſtion of ſo great importance; and for that reaſon deſired he might conſult with ſome Man of Skill and Learning, for whoſe Secrecy he would be reſponſible. The King was apprehenſive leaſt this might make the Matter too publick; but as ſoon as Father *la Chaiſe* named Monſieur *Fenelon*, the Archbiſhop of *Cambray*, his Fears were over; and he bid him go and find him out. As ſoon as the Confeſſor had communicated the Buſineſs he came upon, to the Biſhop, he ſaid, *What have I done, Father, that you ſhould ruin me? But 'tis no matter; let us go the King.* His Majeſty was in his Cloſet, expecting them. The Biſhop was no ſooner enter'd, but he threw himſelf at the King's Feet, and begged of him not to Sacrifice him; the King promiſed him that he would not; and then propoſed the Caſe to him. The Biſhop, with his uſual Sincerity, repreſented to him the great Prejudice he would do himſelf by declaring his Marriage, together with the ill Conſequences that might attend ſuch a Proceeding. The King very much approved his Reaſons, and reſolved to go no farther in this Affair. Madam *Maintenon* ſtill preſſed him to comply with her; but it was now all to no purpoſe; and he told her, it was not a thing to be done. She asked him, if it was Father *La Chaiſe* who diſſwaded him from it. He for ſome time refuſed to give her any Anſwer; but at laſt, overcome by her Importunities, he told her every thing as it had paſſed. She upon this diſſembled her Reſentment, that ſhe might be the more able to make it prove effectual. She did by no means think the Jeſuit was to be forgiven; but the firſt

Mark

(Price Two Pence.)

Marks of her Vengeance fell upon the Archbiſhop of *Cambray*. He and all his Relations were, in a little time, put out of all their Employments at Court; upon which he retired to live quietly upon his Biſhoprick; and there have no Endeavours been ſpared to deprive him even of that. As a farther Inſtance of the Incontrolable Power of this great Favourite, and of her reſenting even the moſt trivial Matters that ſhe thinks might tend to her Prejudice, or the Diminution of her Honour, it is remarkable, that the *Italian* Comedians were driven out of *Paris*, for playing a Comedy called *la Fauſſe Prude*, which was ſuppoſed to reflect upon Madam *Maintenon* in particular.

It is ſomething very extraordinary, that ſhe has been able to keep intire the Affections of the King ſo many Years, after her Youth and Beauty was gone, and never fall into the leaſt Diſgrace; notwithſtanding the Number of Enemies ſhe has had, and the Intrigues that have been formed againſt her from time to time. This brings into my Memory a Saying of King *William*'s, that I have heard, on this Occaſion: *That the King of* France *was, in his Conduct, quite oppoſite to other Princes; ſince he made choice of young Miniſters, and an old Miſtreſs.* But this Lady's Charms have not lain ſo much in her Perſon, as in her Wit and good Senſe. She has always had the Addreſs to flatter the Vanity of the King, and to mix always ſomething ſolid and uſeful with the more agreeable Parts of her Converſation. She has known how to introduce the moſt ſerious Affairs of State into their Hours of Pleaſure; by telling his Majeſty, that a Monarch ſhould not love, nor do any thing, like other Men; and that he, of all Men living, knew beſt how to be always a King and always like himſelf, even in the midſt of his Diverſions. The King now converſes with her as a Friend, and adviſes with her upon his moſt ſecret Affairs. He has a true Love and Eſteem for her; and has taken Care, in caſe he ſhould die before her, that ſhe may paſs the Remainder of her Life with Honour, in the Abby of St. *Cyr*: There are Apartments ready fitted up for her in this Place; ſhe and all her Domeſticks are to be maintained out of the Rents of the *Houſe*, and ſhe is to receive here all the Honours due to a Foundreſs. This Abby ſtands in the Park of *Verſailles*; it is a fine Piece of Building, and the King has endowed it with large Revenues. The Deſign of it (as I have mentioned before) is to maintain and educate young Ladies, whoſe Fortunes do not anſwer to their Birth. None are accounted duly qualified for this Place, but ſuch as can give ſufficient Proofs of the Nobility of their Family on the Father's ſide for an hundred and forty Years; beſides which, they muſt have a Certificate of their Poverty, under the Hand of their Biſhop. The Age at which Perſons are capable of being admitted here is from ſeven Years old till twelve. Laſtly, it is required, that they ſhould have no Defect nor Blemiſh of Body or Mind; and for this Reaſon there are Perſons appointed to viſit and examine them, before they are received into the College. When theſe young Ladies are once admitted, their Parents and Relations have no need to put themſelves to any farther Expence or Trouble about them. They are provided with all Neceſſaries for Maintenance and Education: They ſtile themſelves of the Order of St. *Lewis*. When they arrive to an Age to be able to chuſe a State of Life for themſelves, they may either be placed as Nuns in ſome Convent at the King's Expence, or be marryed to ſome Gentleman, whom Madam *Maintenon* takes Care, upon that Condition, to provide for, either in the Army or in the Finances; and the Lady receives beſides, a Portion of four hundred Piſtoles. Moſt of theſe Marriages have proved very ſucceſsful, and ſeveral Gentlemen have by them made great Fortunes, and been advanced to very conſiderable Employments.

I muſt conclude this ſhort Account of Madam *Maintenon* with adverting my Readers, that I do not pretend to vouch for the ſeveral Particulars that I have related. All I can ſay is, that a great many of them are atteſted by ſeveral Writers; and that I thought this Sketch of a Woman ſo remarkable all over *Europe* would be no ill Entertainment to the Curious, till ſuch time as ſome Pen, more fully inſtructed in her whole Life and Character, ſhall undertake to give it to the Publick.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

There is now preparing for the Preſs, A Collection of Original Poems and Tranſlations by the moſt eminent Hands, to be Publiſh'd by Mr. Steele. Such Gentlemen therefore who are willing to appear in this Miſcellany, are deſired to communicate the ſame, directed to Jacob Tonſon Bookſeller in the Strand.

In the Preſs and will ſpeedily be Publiſh'd,

New Dialogues of the Gods; or, Reflections upon the Paſſions, with Diſcourſes concerning the Nature of Dialogues. Done from the French by Mr. Rereby. Poemata Theodori Bezæ Vezelii: quibus continentur Sylvæ, Elegiæ, Epitaphia, Icones. Epigrammata quæ Juvenis adhuc ingenii exercitandi gratia conſcripſit, & divulgari paſſus eſt. Both Printed for Bernard Lintott between the two Temple-gates in Fleetſtreet.

This Day is Publiſh'd,

The Groans of Great Britain; being the Second Part of the Groans of Europe, price 1 s. Lately Publiſh'd the Female Advocates, or the Frantick Stock-Jobbers, a Comedy, price 1 s. 6 d. What has been may be, &c. To which is added the Tryal of the ſeven Biſhops, price 1 s. More Memoirs; or, the Pretender what he really pretends to be &c. price 6 d. Honour retriev'd from Faction, price 6 d. A Demonſtration of the Exiſtence of a God, &c. By the Archbiſhop of Cambray, Author of Telemachus. Sold by J. Baker in Pater-noſter-Row.

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Fifty Hogſheads of excellent new French Clarets and White Wine, of the true Flavour, newly landed, to compare with any Parcel. To encourage a quick Sale, will be Sold from eighteen to twenty Pounds per Hogſhead, and by the Gallon at ſeven Shillings. Note, Incouragement will be given to thoſe that take a Quantity. Any Gentleman or Retailer, ſending a Penny-Poſt Letter or Servant to the French Wine-Vault under Skinner's Hall in Elbow-Lane, may be ſupplyed with Care. Conſtant Attendance being given.

LONDON: Printed for *J. Tonſon* in the *Strand*; and Sold by *A. Baldwin* in *Warwick-Lane*; where Advertiſements are taken in. 1713.